

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant responds herein to the Office Action dated January 18, 2007. Claims 1, 4, 7, 10-12, 14, 16-18 and 20 have been rejected as anticipated by Inokuchi. Claim 19 has been rejected over Inokuchi in view of Okumura. Claim 1 is being amended and claims 18-20 are being canceled.

Claim 1 is being amended to include the features of original claim 3, and other details, including an actuator having a working piece which forms a part of the claimed positioning means. The amended claim language is supported for example by Figure 3 and the corresponding text at pages 12-14, which describes in part an actuator 33 and its working piece 33a.

As now claimed, the correcting means corrects a position of the holding means according to a posture variation of the holding means detected by the detecting means at a time of transfer of the substrates between the holding means and the transport means.

In particular, as claimed, the correcting means includes a through hole, a rigid member, and an actuator acting as positioning means. The actuator moves its working piece into and out of an opening of the through hole to act on the rigid member. In this way, the actuator is effective to adjust the position of the holding member.

Such construction as now recited in claim 1 is neither disclosed in nor suggested by Inokuchi. Thus, the claimed invention is believed allowable over Inokuchi.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims as amended and pass this case to issue.

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TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING
SYSTEM ON April 18, 2007.

JAF:rkw/lf

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Flander
Registration No.: 30,173
OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-8403
Telephone: (212) 382-0700